

# Lancaster Countians Urged To Speak Out On Development

BY LISA RISSER

LANCASTER — Development versus farm preservation is a hot topic in Lancaster County. For quite some time, countians have debated on municipal levels about what should be done. Now is the time for them to make themselves heard.

The Lancaster County Planning Commission released in February a draft policy statement of the comprehensive plan that outlines goals to control growth. Ronald T. Bailey, county planning director, is inviting opinions from residents. "We want citizen involvement in each of the four parts of the plan," he said. "The key to (the plan's) success is effective communication. We're not trying to sell (the draft) as a catalog of ideas. We want to open dialogue to occur on the plan."

The plan, which is being developed in four stages, is intended to give Lancaster County's 60 municipalities guidelines and help them to work together, something of which they have done little.

The Planning Commission's main goal of attaining community consensus for controlling growth began on Friday when it met with municipal officials. Today they will meet with representatives from organizations.

Three guest speakers are featured at the meetings, which will be moderated by Al Benkendorf, an Oregon-based planning consultant. The speakers are David Church of Successful Communities Program in New Jersey. Successful Communities is a national program aimed at helping growing communities find ways to develop and retain their resources; Maureen Wheatley, member of the Bucks County Regional Planning Commission; and Diane R. Brake, representative of the Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer Regional Council in New Jersey.

In subsequent weeks the Planning Commission will hold public meetings around the county. The

meetings, which begin at 7:30, will take place:

- Tuesday, May 2, Lancaster Recreation Commission
- Wednesday, May 3, Manheim Township Municipal Building
- Thursday, May 4, East Hempfield Township Municipal Building
- Wednesday, May 10, Solanco High School Auditorium
- Thursday, May 11, Ephrata High School

Among the actions the draft outlines for agricultural land include:

- identifying areas for urban development
- enact municipal zoning regulations that protect agricultural uses from non-farm activities that would interfere with normal farm practices
- establish minimum lot sizes in farm-use zones so that farming may continue within the zones
- enact flexible zoning regula-

tions to permit a variety of entrepreneurial activities that provide markets for agricultural products

- restrict extension of sanitary sewer and water systems into agricultural areas
- enact municipal zoning standards that permit the utilization of transfer of development rights to allow for the permanent conservation of viable farms
- encourage organizations to purchase conservation easements

for farmland preservation

- facilitate the economic expansion of agriculture; plan and coordinate highway improvements to minimize disruptive effects on continued ag practices in areas through which the roads must pass
- minimize groundwater pollution attributable to poor ag management practices
- organize a program that would match farmers with those who want to sell or lease farms

## Wayne Co. Extension Celebration

HONESDALE (Wayne) — Wayne County Cooperative Extension and Penn State's College of Agriculture are celebrating the 75th anniversary of cooperative extension the week of May 8. On May 8, 1914, the United States Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which funded cooperative extension at land-grant universities in every state. As a result, Pennsylvania's first county agent was appointed that same year to serve in Bedford County. While the Wayne County Pomona Grange began efforts in 1915 to secure a local agent it was not until May 1916 that Ray Wakely was hired to fill the spot in Wayne County.

While the Wayne County observance of the 75th anniversary will include displays in the lobby of the Court House and in the window of Rea and Derick drug store a highlight of the celebration will be an open house in the Wayne County Extension office on May 8 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to the open house which will feature a historical video and presentations by staff members of several current educational programs being offered by cooperative extension.

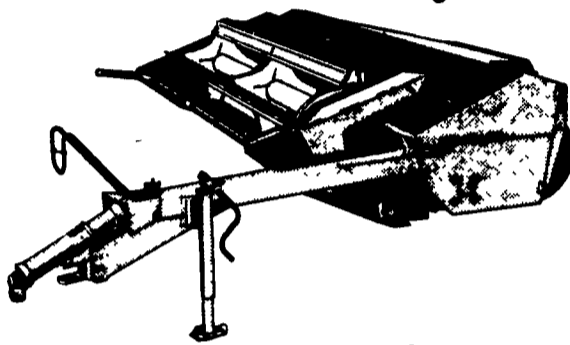
Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited to visit the open house in the Wayne County Cooperative Extension office, which is located in the basement of the Court House.

**SAY  
HEY  
(HAY)**



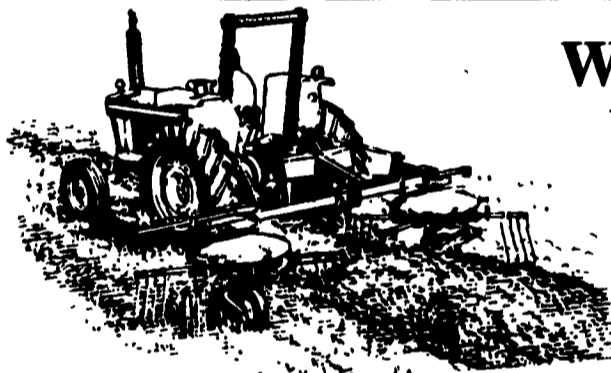
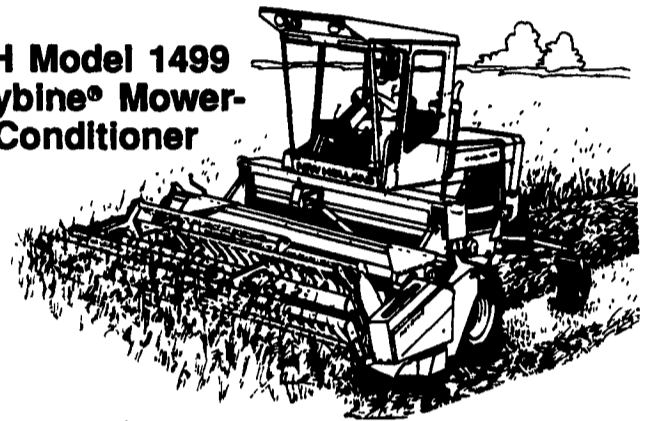
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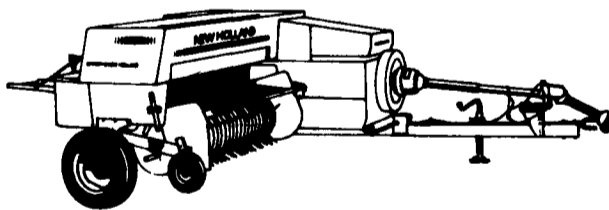
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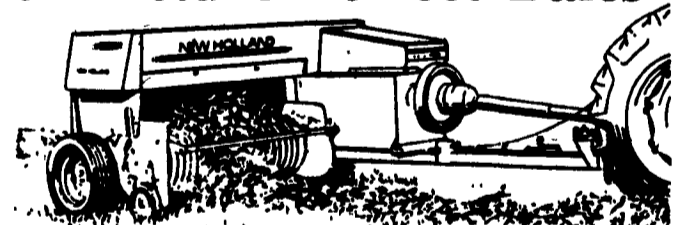
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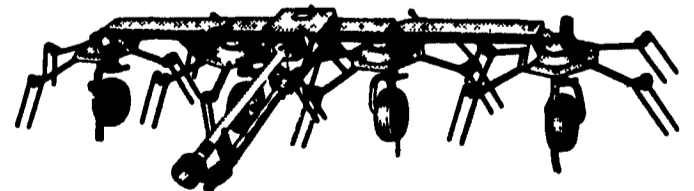


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